

THE

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TRIAL

Of the Honourable

Mrs. *Gloriana Strut,*

BEFORE

LORD *PETER,*

Chairman of the COMMITTEE,

Held in the

COUNCIL-CHAMBER,

Near the

GATES of PARADISE.

L O N D O N,

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PROF.

LORD PETER

Chairman of the Committee

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COUNCIL-CHAMBER

NEW

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T H E

T R I A L

Of the Honourable

Mrs. *Gloriana Strut.*

Peter. **W**HAT monstrous Noise is that? for God's sake, *Paul*, go and see what is the matter; I protest I am afraid they will break the Gate down.

Gloriana Strut. *Dum dera dum, dum, dum.* Who's there? who's there? why don't ye open the Gate? Are Women of Quality to wait like Beggars!

Paul. What is the Reason, good Woman, that you make such a Disturbance at the Gate? What is it that you want? whence do you come? and who are you?

Gloriana Strut. Good Woman, Impertinence! Is that your Manners to a Christian Woman of Quality? Why don't you open the Gate, Blockhead? I want to come in.

B

Paul.

Paul. These Gates are not to be opened so hastily, Mistress. We must know first, who you are, and what you are, and whence you come, in order to a strict Examination of your Right to Admittance within these Walls.

Gloriana Strut. Most reverend and formal Sir, give me leave to ask you a Question in my Turn; and it is ten to one, but I shall save you the Trouble of such a nice Enquiry.

Paul. You are welcome to ask as many as you please.

Gloriana Strut. First then, I desire to know what this Place is called?

Paul. It is called Paradise.

Gloriana Strut. The next thing that I must beg to be informed of, is, what Persons of Quality you have here.

Paul. We know of no such Sect.

Gloriana Strut. What! a Paradise and no Persons of Quality in it! I have certainly missed my Way, and mistaken the Place; pray excuse the Trouble, and be so good as to tell me, where I may find the Quality's Paradise, and which is the shortest way to it.

Paul. I assure you, Mistress, that I know of no other Paradise, but what is within these Walls; and I am obliged to tell you, that you are under an unavoidable Necessity of

of answering those Questions, which I just now put to you.

Gloriana Strut. That Necessity gives me very little Concern, I assure you; for my Condition and Family is such, as the greatest Princes might be proud of: for you have here before you, no less a Person, than the Honourable *Gloriana Strut*, Widow, a true and flourishing Branch of the House of the *Rodomonte Mentiroso's*, my Royal Ancestors, and Kings of *Hibernia*; and as to my Abode, it is at the lower End of *Quality-Court*, near the Palace of *St. James*, in the Metropolis of *Great Britain*.

Paul. The Account which you have given me is sufficient for the present, be pleased to retire, and Care shall be taken of you, till the Committee thinks proper to hear you.

Peter. Well, Master *Paul*, I am glad to see you safe returned; sure you have had a little Army to deal with, by the great Fracass and rattling of the Gates.

Paul. I should have thought so too, if I had not gone there myself; but I assure you that all that terrible Tintamar was made, merely by one single Christian Woman of Quality, as she calls herself.

Peter. Woman of Quality! what is that?

Paul. Truly I did not know myself, till about half an Hour ago, when the Lady herself was pleased to give me the following

succinct Account of it; *viz.* God makes Kings, and Kings make Quality, and Quality takes place of all inferior Orders.

Peter. And is that the important Pre-eminence that has occasioned this Woman to make all that impertinent Clattering and Noise?

Paul. It is of the utmost Importance to them, it seems; for, upon my treating it as a Trifle, her Answer was; To you, Sir, who are not acquainted with its Advantages, it may seem so indeed; but it is our greatest Glory and highest Bliss: for I will venture to say, that the most fortunate Conqueror never felt half the Raptures, in his triumphal Car, that a Woman of Quality does, when she moves along an Assembly, with superior Pomp, addressing herself all the way, with an humble Sneer and disdainful Civility to all her Inferiors: Or if she walks majestick, scattering Contempt around; Oh, the Gusto! to see the paltry Creatures ready to burst with Envy and Spight about one.

Peter. A most religious and godly Transport truly! and all that I can gather from it, is, that this new-fangled Bauble, called Quality, has poisoned the whole Species; for it has made one Part of it as proud, and the other as spightful as the Devil. I suppose that she is one of your Great-ones, by the Airs she gives herself; But here is
Luke

Luke coming, he has read her Journal perhaps, and can let me farther into her Character.

Paul. Well met, old Friend; you that are so curious in Journals; pray have you seen the Honourable *Gloriana Strut's* yet? If you have, pray give us a little farther light into her, for she appears to me to be far the most romantick Creature that ever pretended to Paradise.

Luke. By what appears in the Register, she is a very romantick sort of a Christian indeed; for she has all the Vanity and Folly of a Coquet, with the Pride and Insolence of a Priest. She takes her Passions to be Virtues, and is quite a Drawcansir for the Faith. In short, she is a poor, empty, hor, superstitious Creature, that means no harm, and hopes for Salvation, by cramming the Clergy, and eating Fish upon *Fridays*, and such like religious Figaries.

Peter. If she has conversed so much with the Clergy, I am afraid that we shall have a great deal of trouble with her; for they will have taught her to quibble and lye most abominably.

Paul. Not a jot the more for that, Brother; for your true Parson never thinks of any thing, but guzling and stuffing his Guts, as long as there is Meat and Drink before him.

Peter.

Peter. Well, I do not know what is the Meaning of it, but I have strange Apprehensions about the Trial of this Person of Quality, as she calls herself, we must have a sharp Manager.

Paul. What think you of good *John Bunyan* the Tinker, he is a shrewd Fellow, let me tell you, and a Match for one of ten times such a Woman's Abilities.

Peter. Well, order it as you please, for to be sure you understand these things better than I do ; but prithee be so good as to sit by me, for I shall certainly make some Blunder, if I am left to myself.

Paul. Fie, Man ; you cannot possibly make any Mistake ; for not only all the Facts are in the Journal, but the Motives and Intention are marked down too ? so that you need only cast your Eye upon it, and it will direct you in every Step.

Peter. I protest, Brother *Paul*, one would think, that you mentioned the Journal on purpose to affront me ; for you know very well, that I am so far from being able to read, that I do not know a Letter.

Paul. And I must protest too, Brother *Peter*, that you are so very testy, that there is no living with you. I know very well, Sir, that neither you, nor half the Fraternity can read ; but the Clerk can read, and is not that quite as well ?

Peter.

Peter. Matters of Science may seem very easy to a Scholar ; but I am very sure of this, that a Judge that does not know his Letters, must make very bungling Work, in a Cause that is to be tried by a Register ; especially where the whole Weight of the Affair lies upon him alone. My Reputation to me is as dear as another's.

Paul. The whole Weight lie upon you alone, say you ! Sure, Brother *Peter*, you forget yourself strangely ! Are not we all in Commission to hear and determine as well as you ?

Peter. To hear and determine as well as me, say you ! Why, what do you think that these Keys were given me for, but to open the Gates to those whom I should approve of, and to exclude all those whom I should think proper to reject ? for a Man would have very little reason to be proud of carrying fifty or sixty Pound Weight of Iron dangling at his Girdle, if he were not to have some extraordinary Privilege above the rest.

Paul. Why, can you be so weak, can you be such an Animal, as to imagine, that because you drag fifty or sixty Pound Weight of Iron at your Girdle every day, that it is a sufficient Reason for you to controul the Committee ? I must tell you, Sir, that the only reason why you were made choice of, was because you were much hardier and stronger

stronger than the rest of the Commissioners ; your Merit lay in your Haunches and your Shoulders, and not in your Head ; and there are other Animals that would have perform'd that Duty with as much Dignity, and less Arrogance.

Peter. Very well, Mr. *Paul* ! it is very well, Sir ; but I shall find a time. However, at present let us proceed to Business, and call in Counsellor *Bunyan*, and the Christian Woman of Quality.

Bunyan. Mrs. *Gloriana Strut*, the Committee having appointed me to manage for it, and to examine your Conduct in your late State of Probation, it is my Duty to let you know, that the Court is ready to hear what you have to offer.

Gloriana Strut. I come, Sir, from the other World, where I have been in a State of Probation about thirty-eight, or I may say near forty Years ; and having made myself perfectly fit for Paradise, my Business here is to claim Admission.

Bunyan. That you will certainly have, provided the Court finds that you are fit for it ; and it is incumbent upon you to shew that you are so.

Gloriana Strut. Gentlemen, since my present Situation is such, that I shall be obliged to do justice to my own Merit, I hope that the Recital of such Truths, as will

will unavoidably distinguish me from the rest of my Sex, will be ascribed to Necessity rather than to Vanity. To begin then with my Origin; I am of Royal Descent; a genuine and flourishing Branch of the *Rodomonte Mentiroso's*, the most renowned of *Hibernia's* Monarchs. I feel the Greatness of my Origin; for my Soul is so big with Excellencies, and so swoln with Virtues, that it is continually telling me, how much superior I am to every thing I see. ——— I must beg the Court's Indulgence for a Moment, till I can recover my Disorder; for I protest to you, Gentlemen, that the Reflection alone, upon my own exorbitant Merit and Greatness, puts my Spirits into such an exalted and tumultuous Ferment, that it quite covers me with Confusion. However, since I am under a necessity of displaying some of the most characteristical of my great Actions, I must take the liberty to tell you, that when this Majesty of mine thought fit to grace your Temples, they were thronged with Votaries. I have supported your Mysteries, I have adorn'd your Altars, and I have fatten'd your Priests. In short, I have done so much for Religion, that I am stiled the Glory and Pillar of the Church; and this I urge as my Title to the first Place in Paradise.

Bunyan. This is an extraordinary good Character, I must confess; but it is no more than what all Women constantly give
C themselves :

themselves: Wherefore we must try these, and many more Particulars, by that just and impartial Record called the Register.

Gloriana Strut. What does the Man tell me of other Women for! What has my Merit to do with other Women's Vanity and Impertinence? Because some Fellows are ill-bred Boobies, does it follow that all the rest of Mankind must be Clowns?

Bunyan. Tho' thy Remark, Lady, be exceeding just, yet I very much suspect that thy fine Qualities will be very like the fine Qualities of the rest of the Sex; but as this Point will be soon cleared by the Register, I beg that the Clerk would turn to Page 27, and read that whole Article upon *Gloriana's* going to Church, from her first Admission, in the Year 1675, to 1743.

Luke. Item, that the Honourable Mrs. *Gloriana Strut* is so fantastical in her Dress, and trifles away so many Hours in admiring herself, and being glavered by her Maid, that she always comes into Church, when the rest of the Congregation are intent upon their Devotions; and for fear she should not be sufficiently taken notice of, she enters with so much Insolence and Noise, that she not only scares and astonishes Multitudes of old Women that are in a godly Doze; but spreads such Confusion through the whole Congregation, that the good People can scarce tell where they are, or what

what they are about. Nor is this Disorder soon at an end ; for what with the Stateliness of her Motions, her Wiggles, her Pauses, her Sinks and her Slides, she is a full Quarter of an Hour in getting to her Seat ; then follow her familiar Nods, Smiles, and Grimaces upon the Nobility, and a dozen or two of scornful Curt'sies to her Inferiors : Which, with the Addition of a few fine Airs proper for the Occasion, takes up the Attention of the whole Assembly, during the remaining Part of the Service ; giving great Offence to the few that are well inclined, and a very bad Example to all the rest. In short, her Follies and Extravagances are so contagious, that she has made Coquets and Beggars of all the Women, and Puppies of all the Men that have followed her.

Bunyan. You have heard the Charge, Madam, and a very heavy one it is ; for it is no less, than that you have disturbed and corrupted every Congregation that you have mixed with, for the space of sixty-eight Years together. The Court is disposed to give you the utmost Indulgence, and waits to hear what you have to say in your Defence.

Gloriana Strut. It is alledged, I perceive, that the Beauty of my Person, the Majesty of my Air, and the Elegance of my Dress, are apt to disturb well-disposed Christians, whilst they are engaged in their

publick Devotions. Is it a Crime then, for Beauty to appear at religious Assemblies ? Or is our Dress to be splendid in the Courts of Princes, and is it to be *mal-propre* and neglected in the House of God ? Or shall the Power and Influence of my Person be found fault with, when your own Priests have not scrupled to assure me, that it has given Life and Reputation to your Gospel ? Nor is it less evident, that the Eclat of my Entrance into your Assemblies, has awakened the low-bred drowsy Christian, and led him to adore his Creator, by virtue of the inexpressible Charms, which he admired in the Creature. And is it a Sin, I beseech you, for Quality to sympathise, and let their mutual Joy sit smiling in their Countenance ? Am I, pray, the Guardian of my Sex ? If I was fairer than the Lilly, sweeter than Jessamin, and more lovely than the Rose, was the tawny Vulgar obliged to paint ? Or if the Splendor of my Dress was suitable to my Dignity, were those Apes of Quality, the saucy Citizens, obliged to be extravagant ? I little expected, I must own, that my Conduct would ever have been reflected upon ; but since it is my hard Fate to find it so, I shall beg leave to lay before you the pernicious, nay the fatal Consequences of a contrary Behaviour. Suppose then that the Honourable *Gloriana Strut* had amused herself at home, upon godly Days and sacred

cred Festivals, and left the Church to half-bred Upstarts and plodding Citizens; would not Thousands of fine Gentlemen have diverted themselves somewhere else? And would not as many fashionable Wives and Daughters of pretending Shop-keepers, have been ashamed to be seen at a Place, which their Betters had despised and neglected? This would have led to Apostacy, and they would soon have refused to pay, for what they were ashamed to make use of: And then, adieu spiritual Estates! Adieu Ecclesiastick Luxury and Pomp! Adieu Church!

Bunyan. Here is a good Woman for you! she has ruined her Family, corrupted every silly Creature like herself, disturbed——

Gloriana Strut. You lie in your Teeth, Sirrah, like a paultry, scribbling Tinker as you are, to say that I have corrupted Mankind, when it is well known that I have not only edified, but honoured and adorned the World.

Peter. These Passions I assure you, Madam, are very unbecoming a Christian, and I hope we shall see no more of them.

Gloriana Strut. Pray what were our Passions made for, but to be used upon a proper Occasion? Is a Woman of Quality to stand tamely by, and hear herself insulted by an infamous, schismatical Heretick, and not reprimand him for it?

Peter.

Peter. You are not insulted, Madam, but accused before a Court of Justice, and are not to interrupt the Counsel. Go on, Mr. *Bunyan*.

Bunyan. As I was saying, my Lord, she has corrupted every silly Creature like herself, disturbed every Congregation she ever came into; has pampered the Priests, and turned publick Worship into a Farce, and expects to be highly rewarded, for the extraordinary Service she has done to Religion.

Gloriana Strut. I am quite astonished! nor can I possibly imagine what People would have, or what they mean by religious Duties, if those which I have performed may not be reckon'd such: For if scrupulously practising all the Means, will entitle a Person of Honour to a high Rank amongst the politest Christians, I am sure that I must have an indisputable Right, to a very distinguish'd Degree of Eminence. Has there been a Sacrament, of Consequence at least, which I have not paid my Devoirs at? Have I not eaten Fish upon *Fridays*, banished Black-Pudding, abstained from smothered Rabbits, been conspicuous for my Charities, a Stickler for Mysteries, and zealous for the Faith? Have I not feasted the Clergy, honoured the Function, and execrated every one that did not adore it? What

What could the purest and most perfect Christian do more?

Bunyan. Pray, gentle Lady, be pleased to inform the Court of your Motives, or what you hoped for or proposed, by those religious Exercises.

Gloriana Strut. Sir, I proposed nothing but what came to pass, I assure you; *viz.* to be taken notice of as the chief Patron of positive Duties, and to be looked upon as the most fashionable, exemplary, and polite Christian, that ever graced a consecrated Place of Worship.

Bunyan. I am sorry to say it, Madam; but you have been egregiously mis-led. Pray what did you learn during the sixty-eight Years that you so constantly frequented the Church? Did your Spiritual Pastors never teach you any thing?

Gloriana Strut. Teach me any thing! Why, do those pragmatistical College-bred Animals imagine, that they are fit to teach Ladies of Quality how to behave themselves!

Bunyan. Excuse me, Madam; for I did not propose a Parson, either to teach you Manners, or to dance; but I thought that they might possibly endeavour to persuade you to be virtuous, charitable and just. And since you pique yourself upon being most nicely religious, it was natural for me to imagine,

imagine, that you had given Attention to their Christian Exhortations.

Gloriana Strut. Pardon me, Sir, I really cannot say that I have. When there has been but indifferent Company indeed, and I myself have been but indifferently dress'd, I have hearkened a little now and then; but finding by the Tenor of the Discourse that it did not relate to me, I generally pass'd my Time in reading Billet-doux, or criticising my Friends.

Bunyan. This is a pretty extraordinary Account which you have given of yourself. Pray what did you go to Church for?

Gloriana Strut. It is an odd sort of a Question, I must confess, to ask a Woman of Quality what she goes to Church for. But, to leave nothing without its proper Answer, among a thousand other good Reasons, be pleas'd to accept of the few that follow; *viz.* I went to shew my Christianity and my Clothes, to criticise Dress, and to furnish myself with fresh Matter for the next Visit.

Bunyan. A fine sort of Christianity truly! and extreamly fit to be shewn with fine Clothes; but where is the Vittue! where is the Charity!

Gloriana Strut. Good Master *Bunyan*, I must tell you, that you know very little of Quality, if you imagine, that when all the Requisites to their Dignity and Pleasures

tures are paid for, that there will be much remaining for Charity; not but that I think it a creditable sort of a Virtue enough, when it is properly applied; but I have no notion of a Person of Quality's encouraging a Parcel of nasty, stinking Beggars to come and poison them; I protest it is a burning shame, that such Vermin should be allowed to exist: my Maxim was this, give them nothing; and then they must either work or starve.

Bunyan. Your Ladyship's Ways and Means would be quite infallible, could they be persuaded not to rob or steal. However, since you are not absolutely against some sort of Relief to proper Objects, and seem to be as nice in your Charities as in every thing else, be so obliging as to give us a Sample of one or two of the prettiest of them, for certainly they cannot but be extremely curious.

Gloriana Strut. So is every thing that is excellent, is it not? But since you are so desirous of Specimens, what think you then of supporting two or three Persons of Quality, that have been ruined by a handsome Spirit, and whose extraordinary Splendor has obliged them to withdraw into Obscurity? Such as these we re-establish by the laudable means of a charitable Assembly. Or what Objection have you, Sir, to a handsome Raffle, or generous Contribu-

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tions,

tions, to distressed Ladies Women, the Nature of whose Education has rendered them incapable of any sort of Work? Among others of our respectable Petitioners, I may reckon decayed Singers, Dancing-Masters and Poets, besides many other unfortunate, tho' worthy Members of the Commonwealth. And lest I should be accused of having acted contrary to my own Maxims, I must confess, that I was once so unhappy as to fall into that vulgar Error of relieving your common Street-Beggars; but I have this to say for myself, that what I did was more out of regard to my own Reputation than to their Necessities, and that it was but for a little time.

Bunyan. Very exemplary and edifying Charities, I must confess! And as your manner of treating the Beggars in the Streets seems quite as singular, I shall desire that whole Article may be read.

Luke. Item, That the Honourable *Gloriana Strut* made several annual Entertainments, for a parcel of gluttonous, glaving Priests, that they might spread and extol her Piety and Love for the Church: Upon which occasion, she took care to have a Croud of clamorous Beggars at her Door, whose Distress was to appear so affecting, that she cries out in a compassionate Extacy, Oh dear! these poor People's Miseries pierce my Soul! *La Guerre*, go and relieve

relieve these poor Wretches immediately ; for I am not able to support their Cries ! Upon which all the Reverends lift up their Hands and Eyes, in an unmeaning Astonishment, and beg leave to assure her Ladyship, that her Charities are not to be paralleled in Chronicle ; and upon the Receipt of about two-pence apiece, the Beggars are ordered to cry out, Live for ever, Oh generous and bountiful Lady *Strut !* And this Farce might probably have continued many Years, if her favourite Woman, *Mademoiselle d'Epingle*, had not put a stop to it : For she being a Woman of Honour and Spirit, could not bear to see a parcel of nasty Beggars running away with her legal Perquisites, and was resolved to take the first Opportunity of turning the Stream of her Ladyship's Bounty into its proper Channel ; and accordingly, one day, when she found her Lady in a good Humour, she accosted her in the following manner ; My dear pretty Lady, why do you throw away so much good Money upon those nasty Beggars, to make the Street stink so that you cannot go out in it ? I do it, *Mademoiselle*, says she, that the Clergy may speak well of me, and extol my Charity. Oh, dear Madam, they will speak well of any body, that will fill their Bellies well ; and a little of that good Money put together would buy *Mademoiselle* one very

pretty *Etui*. She took her Advice, and thus ended *Gloriana's* Charity, to those that were the properest Objects of it.

Bunyan. The next Charge that appears against you, is, that you have been guilty of most savage Cruelties, and committed barbarous Murders, without the least Remorse.

Gloriana Strut. What, charged with Murder too! This must be a very extraordinary kind of Justice indeed, if it condemns Ladies for being handsome. Was it my Fault, pray Sir, that my Eyes were made so killing? Is Chastity such a Crime too, that a *well-bred* Reserve should bear the Imputation of Cruelty? Better let the *Beau-Monde* perish, than *Gloriana* not be virtuous.

Bunyan. Madam, I do assure you that all these Heroicks are quite thrown away; for you have entirely mistaken the Nature of the Charge; but the Register will set you right. Clerk, pray turn to Page 74, and read to the Bottom.

Luke. Item, that the Honourable *Gloriana Strut* has had so little Mercy upon Chairmen, Footmen, and Horses, that when she was in the Insolence of her Beauty, it was a common thing for her to kill seven or eight Sets in a Year; and that she grew so infamous for her Cruelty, that all Chairmen whatsoever absolutely refused

to

to serve her ; and that even her Coach-horses trembled, when she entered her Coach. And it is remarkable, that upon the 25th of *December*, 1695, she came home in such a terrible Fluster, that Mademoiselle was very much surprized ; and said, What, is your Ladyship come home on foot ! how comes that about ! you have dirtied your fine Shoes sadly ; I am afraid that some bad Accident has happened to you. The Lady replied, It is only a Trifle, I assure you ; nothing but the Loss of another Chairman. Would you think it, says she, that great Blunderbus *Robin* dropped down dead in the Dirt, just three or four Yards before he reached my own Door : And, as I was under an absolute Necessity of stepping over the nasty Fellow's Shoulders, I daubed myself abominably, before that I could possibly approach the Pavement. If my Scoundrels would have helped me, to be sure I should have come off much better ; but instead of helping me, they were gaping and staring at the dead Fellow : It vexes me, I must confess. I thought, says Mademoiselle, that your good Ladyship would have been above vexing yourself for such an Animal as a Chairman. There is a Distinction to be made, Child, said she ; I do not vex for the Death of the Fellow, but for the Loss of him :
for

for I am afraid that if I kill so many, those Brutes will not care to come near me.

Bunyan. Thus ended this Christian Dialogue; by which it appears that the Murder and Cruelty which you are charged with, comes out to be of a very different sort from what you imagined; and let me tell you, is far from turning out to your Honour.

Gloriana Strut. Sir, my Honour will always be immaculate and safe, notwithstanding the little, paltry Insinuations, and vile Reflections of Freethinkers and Schismatics, that value themselves upon exposing Quality and the Church.

Bunyan. Since you pretend to justify all your Actions by Reason; be so good (if possible) as to suppose yourself in the Situation of one of these despicable Slaves of yours; and then tell me, whether you think it reasonable for Men, that might be useful a thousand ways to the State, to be trudging up and down, till they are ready to die, with a great lazy Trolop, hanging in a vast glazed Box at their Shoulders, for no better end in the World, than to walk into forty or fifty different People's Houses, where Multitudes of the same silly Creatures meet for the same silly Purpose, *viz.* that of seeing new Silks and new Fashions, and looking out sharp for Occasions to gratify their Pride and their Spleen. At these
Drums

Drums and Routs all the extravagant, idle Women in Town are drawn up in Parade. Here it is, that the most desperate Purposes are resolved upon, either to gratify their Lust, or to have it in their Power, by the help of some rich Cully's Purse, to equal a Superior, or to out-shine a Rival. Here they begin their Prostitutions, and here also they initiate their little Progeny, and teach them to do the same.

Gloriana Strut. Very pompous and grand indeed! But what say you to this, Mr. Orator? If the quick Circulation of the Specie be the Life and Soul of Trade, are not they that circulate it quickest the greatest Encouragers of it? And are not the Dissipations of the Extravagant, as you are pleased to call them, so many Blessings to the Industrious? Does not Order itself require those Distinctions of Grandeur, and is not the World ennobled and improved by it?

Bunyan. Tho' this superlatively perfect Lady has so very singular a Talent for displaying her own peculiar Excellencies, as to want very little Assistance; however, that even the least considerable of them may not be over-looked, I shall do her the Justice to give you an Instance of her Humanity to the Men, and her Pity and Concern for the Women, taken out of a familiar Conference with her chief Confidant Mademoiselle

selle *d'Epingle*, and must desire the Clerk to read from Page 79. to the Bottom.

Luke. With humble Submission, my Lord, I have a very material Objection against the reading of the Article proposed, and must beg leave to have the Opinion of the Court.

Peter. What is your Objection, Sir?

Luke. It is this, *viz.* that it contains several quaint Expressions in use among the Ladies, that convey the Idea of a Thing! my Lord, that would move a Christian, but to hear it named; besides the dark Meaning of a certain *Hiatus* or Chasm, which, if it were properly filled up, would be downright Bawdy prepense.

Bunyan. I am surpris'd, my Lord, to hear that learned Gentleman insist so strongly against the Article in question, and to mention a certain Thing with such an Air of Astonishment; when I will be bold to say, my Lord, that it is dress'd out in as decent and comely a Garb, as its Nature will possibly admit of. Whereas, if he will be pleas'd to call to mind the late Conference between Lady *Sly* and Miss *Secret*, about Rapes; he will find, that it is carried on in the strongest, the plainest, and the oldest Terms, that the whole Language could possibly furnish them with; and I defy him to shew me so much as one Instance of a friendly Conference between the most
noted

noted Church-danglers, Chapel-hunters, or old Prudes, where the chastest Part of their Conversation is not much more indecent, than even the freest Expression in the Article in dispute.

Peter. Words are but Words; Brother *Luke*; and let it be ever so bawdy, as it comes regularly before the Court, it ought to be read.

Luke. I submit to the Opinion of the Court, and shall read it accordingly.

Mademoiselle. Your good Ladyship must certainly be indued with infinite Patience, to be able to suffer yourself to be eternally teased, by such immense Crouds of Lovers, as you have always about you.

Gloriana Strut. I cannot perceive that it requires such an unmeasurable Stock, merely to be easy, whilst one is admired; I am sure it would be quite inhuman to be angry: but I must own, there is one Circumstance that does give me some little Concern, for the Gentle and Good; which is, that the least Glimpse of my Charms should so totally alienate the male Part of the Creation from the rest of the Sex.

Mademoiselle. That is good indeed in your Ladyship; for it is enough to make one ashamed of one's Petticoats, to see the poor Wretches at such Cost and Pains in dressing out their Tifity-miews, and trudging from the Play to the Assem-

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bly,

bly, and from the Assembly to Church, hawking their Ware about from one Buttock or Market to another, and exposing their Weakness and their Wants, to every Pair of Breeches they meet.

Gloriana Strut. These are crying Wants indeed ! and I cannot but say, I have observed of late, that even the grand Prerogative, the magick Vortex, their Center of Delight, (once the Wealth, the Power, the Pride and Glory of the Sex) now seems to have lost its Virtue, and to attract no more ; a Calamity, I fear, too justly charg'd on my superior Charms ; and were they not such pretending Upstarts, one could almost condescend to pity them : but it is quite ridiculous, to see a parcel of insignificant Creatures flaunt it about, with a coquettish Air of Importance, at the same time that they are in the utmost Distress ; and are taken no more notice of by the Men of Taste, than a Croud of dressed Machines would be ; and what heightens the Folly, is, that these silly Wretches have the Vanity to be aiming at nothing less than Coaches and Titles, when there is scarce a dirty Mechanick of tolerable Distinction, that would take double their Fortune, to be troubled with them.

Bunyan. The Court, Madam, being sufficiently acquainted with your Religion and Humanity, desires that you would inform them,

them of what good you have done your Country.

Gloriana Strut. If the Glory of a Country consists in its Splendor, the Richness of its Ornaments, the Variety and Delicacy of its Food, and the Perfection of every thing, that can please the Imagination, or ravish the Senses; and the procuring all these Blessings has any Merit in it; I may be very well allowed to say, that no one has ever deserved better of their Country than I have done; for I have ransacked the whole World, to find out something exquisite and new, and have enriched *Great Britain* with an incredible Treasure of most surprising and agreeable Rarities; and, for the Encouragement of Trade, have introduced such a Variety of strange and costly Ornaments in Dress, that I have been justly stiled the Life and Soul of Fashions and Finery. And as trifling and slight a matter as this may appear to be, to Gentlemen not much acquainted, perhaps, with Change of Fashions; I must beg leave to assure you, that it requires a well-grounded Confidence in one's own Merit, to be able to introduce them: For what but the greatest Goodness would undertake it! what but the greatest Beauty could support it! and what but the greatest Courage could possibly maintain the Introduction of a new Fashion of Eclat, in the Face of all your Rivals, and in Defiance

of the Envy and Malice of those reptile Souls, that are the natural Enemies to every thing superiour to themselves. The commonest things we eat and wear, have once been Rarities; and, in the Infancy of Elegance, have been introduced by the reigning Toasts of the Age, to whom consequently all Nations stand indebted for every thing that is delicate and good; and as I need not blush to say, that I have deserved more of my Country in that Particular, than any Mortal ever did, I may very justly expect those Honours, and that Reward, which is due to the most pious and polite Christian, and the greatest Ornament and Benefactor that any Country was ever blessed with.

Bunyan. I have now gone through the greatest Part of your most celebrated Actions; and was in hopes, indeed, that in so great a Pretender to Virtue I should have met with some Sparks of Grace, and am sorry to find myself so much deceived. Were you never ashamed, Madam, of spending so many precious Years in such senseless Vanities?

Gloriana Strut. Why dost thou not ask the Fish, if they are not ashamed to pass away their whole Lives in the Water? Or call the Birds to account for their fluttering so much of their Time away in the Air? They would tell thee, that it is their Element;

ment ; and I tell thee, that Pleasure is ours ; it is the End, the Business, and the Birth-right of a Woman.

Bunyan. Ye have had before ye, Gentlemen, an ample Relation of the Honourable *Gloriana Strut's* most shining Qualities, and their Effects ; wherefore I must leave it to the Court, to pass what Sentence they shall judge to be most proper.

Lord PETER, President of the Council :

MR S. *Gloriana Strut*, you cannot but be sensible of the remarkable Indulgence of the Court ; and that the Means which you have made use of, during the Space of sixty-eight Years of your Probation, have been considered with all the Care, and examined with all the Fairness possible ; and unhappily for you, Madam, it has been clearly proved, that during that whole Space of your Probation, you have been continually disturbing the Church, corrupting the People, and impoverishing your Country. However, notwithstanding that these are the greatest of Mischiefs ; yet, since it has appeared to us that you are a very silly Woman, and little better than a natural Fool, we acquit you of all Malice and mischievous Design ; and, out of Compassion to your Infirmities, which are chiefly Vanity, Selfishness, Insolence, and Presumption,

sumption, the Court has thought fit to grant you one of its most approved Remedies. Accordingly I do in the Name, and by the Authority of the Commissioners here present, order and command the Honourable *Gloriana Strut*, Widow, late of the *Fag End of Quality-Court*, to pass the whole Term of her next Probation, in the Situation and Character of a handsome House-maid, under the absolute Command of one, that has the true Spirit of a Fine Lady's Woman; where she is to remain, and to be used according to Custom, till she has expiated for her Cruelty to her inferior Servants, and learned the Elements of that great Virtue called Humility; a small Tincture of which is absolutely necessary for every fine Lady, that sets up to be a Christian.

F I N I S.

